THE WORLD.

NUMBER XXI.

By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *May* the 24th, 1753.

I SHALL only obſerve upon the following letters, that the firſt relates chiefly to myſelf, that the ſecond has a very ſerious meaning, and that the third contains a hint to the ladies, which I hope will not be thrown away upon them.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

As it is poſſible I may one time or other be a correſpondent of yours, and may now and then, perhaps, have a ſtrong impulſe to pay you a compliment, I am willing to know how far I may go without giving offence, and whether, by the advertiſement at the end of your firſt number, you mean to exclude all alluſions to the expreſſion,

preſſion, THE WORLD, even though the turn of them ſhould be ſuch, as would be rather treating you with civility than otherwiſe? As for inſtance:

WHEN a man is juſt upon the point of committing a vicious action, may he check himſelf by this thought, "What will the WORLD ſay of me?" May a man be threatened that if he does ſuch a thing "The WORLD "ſhall know it?" May it be ſaid, "That the WORLD "eſteems a man of merit?" In ſhort, may the praiſe and cenſure of the WORLD be made uſe of without offence, as arguments to promote virtue, and reſtrain vice?

I AM entirely unacquainted with your ſituation in life; but if you are a married man, I take the liberty to give you one piece of advice. There are certain places of public entertainment, which, though they may chance to be tolerated by law, it were to be wiſhed, for prudential reaſons, were more diſcouraged, and leſs frequented. Example, Mr. Fitz-Adam, is very prevalent; and the advice I would give you is, that whenever you think proper to go to any ſuch places for your own amuſement, you would leave your lady at home; for there is nothing gives greater encouragement than to have it ſaid, "There was all THE WORLD AND HIS WIFE;" from whence it is concluded that all THE WORLD AND HIS WIFE will be there again the next time.

I am Sir,

Your admirer and humble ſervant,

COSMOPHILOS.

Mr. FITZ-ADAM,

I COULD wiſh with all my heart that you and I were a little acquainted, that I might invite you to come and take a ſunday's dinner with me. I name ſunday, becauſe I want you to be witneſs of an evil on that day, which poſſibly, by a conſtant and ſober reſidence in town, you may not be acquainted with.

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IT is my misfortune to live in, what is called, a pleaſant village upon one of the great roads within ſeven miles of London, where I am almoſt ſuffocated with duſt every ſunday in the ſummer, occaſioned by thoſe crowds of 'prentice-boys who are whipping their hired hacks to death, or driving their crazy one-horſe chairs againſt each other, to the great diſmay of women with child, and the mortal havock of young children. It is a plain caſe that neither the fathers nor maſters of theſe young men have any authority over them; if they had, we ſhould find them in their compting-houſes, according to the cuſtom of ſober citizens on that day, poſting their books, and ballancing the accounts of the former week. But in my humble opinion, even this is a cuſtom better broke through than continued; for though induſtry is a very valuable quality, and is commonly the means of making, what is called in the city, a GOOD MAN of a very knaviſh one, it may be puſhed too far; as it moſt certainly is, when it defeats the end and intention of ſunday, which was ordained and inſtituted for a day of reſt.

I CAN juſt remember, Mr. Fitz-Adam, that before chriſtianity was entirely reaſoned out of theſe kingdoms, it was a mighty cuſtom for young folks to go to church upon that day; and indeed I ſhould have thought there was no manner of harm in it, if it had not been plainly proved, as well by people of faſhion as others, that going to church was the moſt tireſome thing in the world; and that conſequently it was notoriouſly perverting a day ſet apart ſolely for reſt.

BUT while almoſt every one, in ſpeculation, is averſe to labour on a ſunday, how ſtrange is it to ſee a lethargic citizen drudging at his books, a decrepid old country couple fatiguing themſelves to death by walking to church, and their children and grand-children venturing

ring their necks and haraſſing their bodies by running races upon the road! I am for the ſtrict obſervance of all inſtitutions; and as we have happily got rid of the religious prejudices of our forefathers, I know of but one way of keeping ſunday as it ought to be kept; but unleſs what I have to propoſe be backed by your cenſorial authority, I ſee no probability of its taking effect: I could wiſh therefore that you would earneſtly recommend to both ſexes, of every rank and condition, the lying in bed all that day. This will indeed be making it a day of reſt, provided that all ſingle perſons be directed to lie alone, and that permiſſion be given to thoſe who cannot ſleep in their beds, to go to church and ſleep there. If this can be brought about, our churches may ſtill be kept open, and the roads cleared of thoſe noiſy and diſſolute young fellows, who finding in themſelves no inclination to lie ſtill, are diſturbing the reſt of all other people.

YOUR taking this matter into conſideration will oblige all ſober obſervers of ſunday, and particularly,

Sir, *Your moſt humble ſervant*,

JOHN SOFTLY.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

IT is an old ſaying, but a true one, that a good huſband commonly makes a good wife. If it was as true, that a good wife commonly made a good huſband, I am inclined to think that Hymen would wear a much brighter countenance among us than we generally ſee him with.

IN all families, where I have been an intimate, I have taken particular notice of every occurrence that has tended to the diſturbance of the matrimonial tranquility; and upon tracing thoſe occurrences to their ſource, I have commonly diſcovered that the fault was principally in the hu ſband.

I HAVE now in my poſſeſſion a calculation of Demoivre, made a few years ago, with great labour and accuracy, which proves that the good wives, within the weekly bills, have a majority upon the good huſbands of three to one; and I am humbly of opinion, that if the calculation was to be extended to the towns and counties remote from London, we ſhould find the majority at leaſt five times as great. But to thoſe huſbands who have never thought of ſuch a calculation, and who have little or no acquaintance with their wives, a majority of three to one may be as much as they will care to ſwallow; eſpecially if it be conſidered how many FINE LADIES there are at St. James's, how many NOTABLE WIVES in the city, and how many LANDLADIES at Wapping; all of which, as a friend of mine very juſtly obſerves, are exactly the ſame character.

BUT though I am convinced of the truth of this calculation, I am not ſo partial to the ladies, particularly the unmarried ones, as to imagine them without fault; on the contrary, I am going to accuſe them of a very great one, which if not put a ſtop to before the warm weather comes in, no mortal can tell to what lengths it may be carried. You have already hinted at this fault in the ſex, under the genteel appellation of moulting their dreſs. If necks, ſhoulders, &c. have begun to ſhed their covering in winter, what a general diſplay of nature are we to expect this ſummer, when the excuſe of heat may be alledged in favour of ſuch diſplay? I called ſome time ago upon a friend of mine near St. James's, who, upon my aſking where his ſiſter was, told me, "At her toilette, UNDRESSING for the ridotto." That the expreſſion may be intelligible to every one of your readers, I beg leave to inform them, that it is the faſhion for a lady to UNDRESS herſelf to go abroad, and to DRESS only when ſhe ſtays at home and ſees no company.

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